WMU trustees set 2017 meeting dates

The WMU Board of Trustees has announced its meeting dates for the 2017 calendar year. The dates and locations are: Wednesday, March 15, Bernhard Center; Thursday, April 27, Heritage Hall; Thursday, June 29, Bernhard Center (agenda includes promotion and tenure, budget, and tuition); Thursday, Sept. 21, Heritage Hall; Wednesday, Nov. 1, on-off-the-main campus location; and Tuesday, Dec. 12, Bernhard Center (holiday party to follow). Public meeting sessions start at 11 a.m.

Assessment-related deadlines reported

The University Assessment Steering Committee is accepting applications by Friday, Feb. 10, for its annual Assessment Excellence Individual and Unit awards. Details are available at wmich.edu/news/2017/02/57926.

In addition, the annual Assessment Conference will take place from 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Friday, March 17, in the Fetzer Center. The conference is open to all of WMU’s graduate teaching assistants and part-time instructors as well as faculty and staff members. Those attending may come and go as their schedules dictate. The registration deadline is Friday, March 10. For more information or to register, visit wmich.edu/assessment/resources.

More faculty-staff mixers coming up

A Gold Gathering faculty-staff mixer is set for 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, in the Fetzer Center lobby. Complimentary light hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar will be available.

The Meemic Redman Agency is sponsoring the event. A lunch buffet is planned for Thursday, March 30. The semester’s final evening mixer is set for Thursday, April 20. For more information about Gold Gatherings, visit wmich.edu/provost/goldgatherings.

Obtain advice to improve surveys

Visit the Evaluation Center’s Survey Improvement Clinic for practical advice on improving short surveys. A table will be set up in conjunction with Spring Convocation from 8:30 a.m. to noon Friday, Feb. 17, in the Fetzer Center. Walk-ins are welcome, and 20-minute time slots can be reserved at lori.wingate@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5922.

WMU hosting Special Olympics finals

WMU is hosting the Special Olympics Michigan Unified Basketball State Finals Saturday, Feb. 25, in the Student Recreation Center. The event is being planned, staged and managed to support the 500 athletes and more than 100 volunteers and fans that are expected to participate or attend. The finals are a collaborative effort among Special Olympics-Michigan, WMU’s University Recreation staff members and the Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Phi Epsilon Kappa.

Local exec named to serve out trustee term

Lynn Chen-Zhang, a partner and chief operating officer with Zhang Financial in Portage, Michigan, has been named to the WMU Board of Trustees. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder announced the appointment Feb. 2, subject to the advice and consent of the state Senate.

“I thank Lynn for her commitment to serve on this board, and I believe her experiences will help the University continue to succeed,” Snyder said.

Chen-Zhang would serve through 2018, completing the eight-year term begun by Trustee Dana Debel, who resigned from the board last month. She is a certified financial planning practitioner and a certified public accountant who has been ranked as one of the nation’s top women financial advisors by Barron’s and the Financial Times.

A WMU alumna, Chen-Zhang serves as vice president of the WMU Foundation and sits on the foundation’s Board of Directors, Investment Committee and Committee on Directors. She is a longtime supporter of University Libraries, the Haworth College of Business, the Academically Talented Youth Program in the Lee Honors College, and many other campus programs and units.

Join Dunn on leg of five-day, 14-city farewell tour

WMU President John M. Dunn will spend five days covering 1,500 miles by bus Monday through Friday, Feb. 27-March 3, to say farewell to University supporters and shine a light on WMU’s current and emerging strengths.

Traveling across Michigan in a specially wrapped bus, John and Linda Dunn will stop in 13 Michigan cities for farewell events and conclude the tour in Chicago.

The president is scheduled to retire June 30. A series of alumni events and other activities around the nation started Sunday, Feb. 12, to celebrate his decade as president. Among those that campus community members can participate in is the bus tour.

• Monday, Feb. 27, will include a morning reception at the WMU College of Aviation in Battle Creek, a luncheon reception at WMU Cooley Law School in Lansing and an evening celebration at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids.

• Tuesday, Feb. 28, features a luncheon reception at Weber’s Inn in Ann Arbor and an evening reception at the Detroit Athletic Club.

• Wednesday, March 1, will feature a morning reception at the WMU Cooley Cooley Plaza in Grand Rapids.

WMU’s supply chain program ranks No. 2 in world

The integrated supply chain management program recently ranked second on a list of the top 100 universities for supply chain talent produced by SCM World, a cross-industry learning community powered by the world’s most influential supply chain practitioners.

The No. 2 ranking places WMU ahead of MIT, Harvard, Penn State, the University of Michigan and many other schools. Michigan State University came in first this year.

The ranking indicates that industry professionals see a degree from WMU as a marker for top supply chain talent.

“Those responding to the SCM World survey are industry professionals who value WMU’s connection with industry, curricular innovation and ability to prepare students to add immediate value to organizations in the ranking process. The results of the survey show that hands-on experience may often be the differentiator in program success. SCM World cites a recent survey about the ideal skill mix that supply chain professionals identified as needed for 2020 and beyond, which stated that communication, strategic thinking and change management were among desired skills. According to SCM World, skills such as those develop fastest in the world of work.

“The ability to offer our students multiple experiences through projects, consulting and required internships allows them to gain experience in the areas that supply chain professionals most value,” says Robert Reck, marketing, and director of WMU’s Center for Integrated Supply Management.

“We work hard to stay close to industry, listen to the needs of employers and adapt our curriculum to reflect the realities in the field. This ranking shows that our efforts are recognized and appreciated by hiring managers.”

Continued on page 4
Diversity conversation set at Fetzer

A communitywide conversation Saturday, Feb. 18, is expected to attract appointed and elected officials to explore the importance of diversity in a variety of areas of civic involvement. Portage Mayor Peter J. Strazdas, Facilities Management, will serve as moderador, and WMU President John M. Dunn will deliver welcoming remarks. The “Kalamazoo Region Conversation on Respecting Differences” is the title of the event, which will run from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Fetzer Center and feature panel discussions on law enforcement, education, state regulations, and local and state politics.

Panel examines spread of fake news

“How to Catch Fake News Before it Catches You” is the topic of an interactive panel discussion examining the widespread proliferation of fake news stories. It will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20, in the Lee Honors College Lounge. Panel members will be Sue Ellen Christian, communication; Mickey Ciokajo, a regional news manager for MLive Media Group; and Peter W. Welchower, political science. For more information, visit bit.ly/2KjMj1X.

WMU celebrates research, diversity and global engagement

“Spring Convocation: Recognition of Discovery, Diversity and Global Engagement” will take place Friday, Feb. 17, in the Fetzer Center and feature scholar talks, professional development workshops, a recognition luncheon, and convocation and awards. The awards presentation will begin at 3:30 p.m. and be followed by a Gold Gathering reception with appetizers and a cash bar that runs until 6 p.m. For more details, visit wmich.edu/research.

This year’s awards are being presented by four units:

• Extended University Programs—Paul Solomon, art; Whitney DeCamp, sociology; and Robert Miller, marketing, and Ann Ganz, world languages and literatures.
• Office of the Vice President for Research—Zahir Quraeshi, marketing, and Ann Ganz, world languages and literatures.
• Office of the Vice President for Research—James Henry, social work; Robert Bentsley, interdisciplinary health programs; Stephanie M. Peterson, psychology; and Jianping Shen, educational leadership, research and technology.

FAREWELL RECEPTION

The University community is invited to a farewell reception for Wolfgang Schör. Haenicke Institute for Global Education, from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 2, in the Bernhard Center’s Bronco Global Lounge.

EXCHANGE

For sale—Custom-built home in scenic waterfront Portage neighborhood. Four bedrooms; 4.5 bathrooms; dedicated office space; open-concept, teakwood main floor with fireplace; gourmet kitchen with high-end appliances; and second master bedroom in walkout basement. Listed: $359,900. Contact: Shah at (269) 861-0986.

JOBS

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/jobs. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Emeritus pens three-book fiction series

H. Byron Earhart, emeritus in comparative religion, is about to complete The Destiny Trilogy released by iCrew Digital Publishing. The series begins with 2016’s “No Pizza in Heaven.” For three decades, it follows the diverging trajectories of identical twin sons who are separated from each other and their teenage mother at birth. The mother turns into an indiﬁdent agonistic, one twin an ex-heretical preacher and the other twin a cool New Ager who develops a create-your-own-religion computer program. How they become reunited and reconcile their differences is at the heart of that detective family drama. Book Two of the trilogy, “Faith Finds Forgiveness,” came out earlier this year and Book Three, “Meeting the Devil,” is due to be released later this year. Now retired and living in California, Earhart has returned to his early interest in creative writing. His academic publications are in the area of Asian religions, especially religion in Japan.

Researcher elected new AAAS Fellow

Michelle A. Kominz, geosciences, was recently elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and will be recognized at an AAAS event Feb. 18. Kominz is one of 391 association members from the U.S. and 24 sections to receive the honor “because of their scientiﬁcally or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications.” Several studies she has been involved with have implications for helping to determine how high sea levels could rise as a result of human-induced sea-level change.

Kominz conducts research in the ﬁeld of geodynamics, with her current activities centering on global sea-level change and tectonics—the vertical motions that generate the large-scale structural features of the Earth.

Poet releases children’s collection

Judith A. Rypma, English, mines the metaphorical possibilities of rocks and minerals in a new book, “Rocks In My Head: Poems for Young People About Rocks, Minerals and Crystals,” published by Rockhound Press. Rypma is continuing a long tradition of poets forging links with precious stones and metals that began with Ovid, a Roman, and includes a strand of gems by the likes of Poe, Dyer, Yeats and Tennyson. “As a poet and amateur rock hound, I’ve been making connections between geostones and poetry for decades,” Rypma says. “And as someone who works with future educators, I’ve simultaneously been a long-time advocate of forging a relationship between science and the language arts. This book is the culmination of all those interests and beliefs.”

Western News

Volume 43 Number 10

EDITOR: Jeanne Baron. CONTRIBUTORS: Cara Barnes, Paula M. Davis, Tammy Farley, Deanne Fucci, Cheryl E. Riedl and Mark E. Schwerin. PRODUCTION: Office of University Relations, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433, every other week during the fall and spring semesters of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University. WESTERN NEWS is published by the Office of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433, every other week during the fall and spring semesters and summer session. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5163.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Western News, Office of University Relations, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433.

DEADLINE: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding publication. Publication dates for the spring sem. are Jan. 13 and 26, Feb. 9 and 23, March 16 and 30, and April 13; items to be submitted to Jeanne Baron via email: jeanne.baron@wmich.edu; mail: Campus Mail Stop 15433; phone: (269) 387-6437; or fax: (269) 387-8422.

WMU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer consistent with applicable state and federal laws.

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Safety communication changes enacted

A number of new safety tools recommended by a Safety Communications Committee created by President John M. Dunn were unveiled last month.

The campuswide committee was appointed after shootings in Kalamazoo on a single evening a year ago. The group worked to examine existing communication tools and potential additions that would allow the University to improve the way it advertises students of imminent danger that is off campus but near campus borders.

Starting late in the fall semester, when Dunn received the committee’s report and recommendations, WMU has begun to enhance its communication system by:

- Setting up a dedicated, public safety Twitter account. The account, @wmupub
   - licsafety, will be used to send out advisory messages about incidents that may occur in the vicinity of the campus community as well as area media’s breaking news alerts.

- Purchasing new commercial software to continually scan social media and alert WMU officers to issues emerging outside their jurisdiction that are potentially important to ensure the safety of campus community members within a defined geo-
   - graphic boundary.

- Unveiling a safety information website at wmsfps.wmich.edu/safety-info.php that is a one-stop compilation of safety-related links and information, including links to campus safety services as well as area media’s breaking news alerts.

- Receiving a certificate on behalf of those who took part in WMU’s efforts.
  - The group worked at other daytime and into the night. The group continued into the night.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to visit campus for book read event

Retired professional basketball star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar will speak at WMU one day after a discussion of Chapter 1 of his book, “Writings on the Wall: Searching for a New Equality Beyond Black and White.” Abdul-Jabbar will give a free talk from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, in Miller Auditorium as part of the Kalamazoo Public Library’s 2016-17 Reading Together program.

KPL and several WMU entities are sponsor
   - ing the chapter discussion from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Monday, March 13, in the Heritage Hall Ballroom.

The chapter is a collection of essays on the country’s seemingly irreconcilable partisan divide, both racial and political; parenthood; and the author’s own experiences as an athlete, an African-American and a Muslim.

Multiple copies of Abdul-Jabbar’s book are on seven-day reserve at the Waldlo Library circulation desk. To RSVP for the March 14 talk or learn about all related local events, visit kpl.gov/reading-together/2017/.

Learner support program self-study reports available for review by faculty, staff

A campuswide observation team has launched Phase II of the Learner Support Program Review and Planning cycle.

Starting Jan. 19, the LSPPR Observation Team began a peer review of the self-study reports submitted from the 117 programs that includes as focusing on learner support. Those next-level supervisors, such as direc-
   - tors and managers of the units offering the support program, will review the self-study reports available for review by faculty, staff members may review the identified as focusing on learner support.

In Phase II, observation team subgroups will complete their review of the reports by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, and give next-level reviewers a list of the programs’ overall strengths and key areas for development.

For more information about the University’s ongoing integrated program review and planning process, it focuses on planning, decision-making and implementation.

Lastly, senior leaders will review all feedback and provide recommendations to their units by Friday, June 30—the end of the academic year—so appropriate planning can begin.

The Learner Support Program Review and Planning cycle includes a third phase that focuses on planning, decision-making and implementation.

Phase III is expected to begin Saturday, July 1, and be ongoing. It will allow senior leaders to review the information that has been reported and apply it to decision-making in their respective areas.

For more information about the Learner Support Program Review and Planning or the integrated program review and planning process, visit wmich.edu/effectiveness/program/summer.

WMU responds to Trump travel restriction

WMU President John M. Dunn’s response to President Donald J. Trump’s executive order banning all immigration from seven predominantly Muslim nations is posted at wmich.edu/president/
   - messages. In his message, Dunn noted that the student body includes nearly 1,800 international students, with about 100 coming from those na-
   - tions. He asked readers to let all of them know that the University community not only supports them, but also welcomes them.
Join Dunn on farewell tour

Auburn Hills campus, a luncheon at Flint Golf Course, and a dinner reception for the Saginaw, Midland and Bay City area slated for the Frankenmuth Brewery.

Thursday, March 2, begins with a luncheon reception at Traverse City’s Park Center in Muskegon.

Friday, March 3, starts with a morning reception at the WMU Stryker School of Medicine as well as a number of celebratory events planned for smaller campus and community groups. Dunn is closing out a transformational decade during which he has touched every part of the University. At the request of the WMU Board of Trustees, he has agreed to serve for a year as president emeritus following his retirement. In that capacity, he will undertake assignments requested by the trustees and the new president.

Gold Company, GCII present special annual show

Gold Company and GCII are back and bigger than ever in their new show, “Royally Dunn.” They will present some of music royalty’s greatest hits with a special nod of thanks to retiring WMU President John M. Dunn. “Royally Dunn” will feature the music, comedy, choreography and showmanship of Gold Company and GCII during performances at 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, in Miller Auditorium.

Experience the songs of Michael Jackson, Aretha Franklin, Elvis Presley and more. The two highly regarded ensembles will be joined by Grammy-nominated Gold Company alumus Jeremy Fox and the University Symphony Orchestra. Tickets may be purchased at millerauditorium.com.

WMU faculty and staff members will get a 15 percent discount, and due to a fund established by the president’s office, WMU students get a 50 percent discount on most show tickets.